

**WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION  
(South West ) plc and (South Wales) plc**

**SCHEDULE 9 STATEMENT**

This statement is provided under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 as amended by the Utilities Act 2000

South Wales and the South West of England is renowned for its countryside, dramatic coastline and rugged terrain. Western Power Distribution (WPD) recognises that such an environment needs care and consideration and WPD aims to achieve this through its environmental policy.

**Duties:-** WPD is licenced to distribute electricity through its electricity systems in South West England and South Wales where the Company is the Distribution Licence holder. It is obliged, under its Licence, to offer least cost, compliant connections to persons seeking connections to the Distribution system within the Licence areas.

Under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act, as amended, WPD must “have regard to the desirability” of preserving natural beauty and “seek to do what it reasonably can to mitigate” the effect of its activities on the countryside, geological and physiographical features, flora, fauna, and protect sites, buildings or structures or objects of historic or archaeological interest when WPD:-

- Plans to install electricity lines (overhead and underground) to supply an individual or community
- Carries out other works in connection with the operation and maintenance of the distribution system

**WPD aims to: -**

- Minimise the impact of its activities on communities and the historic and natural environment
- Site overhead lines with care and consider both the visual impact and the impact on nature conservation as far as possible
- Continue to work with partners to selectively underground lines in appropriate sensitive locations to improve the appearance of countryside, towns or villages, whilst taking account of sites of particular archaeological or nature conservation interest.

### **To do this, WPD :-**

- Only seeks to build lines along new routes, or substations in new locations where the existing distribution system infrastructure cannot be economically upgraded to meet Distribution security standards, or where we foresee an increase in demand for electricity which will not be satisfied by other means, or where connections to customers are required.
- Will seek to avoid, where reasonably practicable, the installation of new infrastructure in areas which are nationally or internationally designated for their landscape, wildlife, historic or cultural significance: National Parks; Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Sites of Special Scientific Interest including Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites; National Nature Reserves; Heritage Coasts; World Heritage Sites; scheduled ancient monuments and designated sites of historic interest ( "listed sites") . If installation on such listed sites is necessary, WPD will seek to avoid significant impacts on regional and local sites, protected species and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment, and take measures to safeguard historic sites. Where reasonably practicable, opportunities to enhance biodiversity and geological features of such sites will be exploited.
- Will maintain a geographic record of the locations of the above "listed sites"
- Will seek specialist advice if it is necessary to undertake work on sites of archaeological, historical, biodiversity or geological interest, working closely with suitably qualified and experienced specialists.
- Will consult with District Councils for all new overhead lines. Where these involve voltages at 33kV and above we will voluntarily consult with Parish Councils. For 132kV overhead lines, we will, in addition to consulting with Parish Councils consult with County Councils as well.
- Will consult with Local Authorities on the need to undertake an environmental impact assessment when it is proposed to build more than 1km of new overhead line of 33kV and above
- Will review and offer comment on Local Authority long term plans to draw early attention to the needs for plans to consider strategic WPD infrastructure
- Will consult with statutory bodies, local authorities and relevant landowners where planned new construction would have a high amenity impact, to help us identify, assess and carry out measures to mitigate the impact so far as is reasonably practicable. This may include the provision of resources to screen and landscape selected substations and other locations as needs change.
- Will, on completion of any work ensure the site is reinstated, as far as possible, to its original state

- Will promote environmental awareness and requirement to comply with WPD policies to its staff and contractors. Where WPD staff are undertaking noise testing, we will ensure those staff are trained by recognised external bodies. We will voluntarily liaise with Local Authority Environmental Health Officers to discuss noise complaints and share test results with them.
- Will expect similar environmental standards from our suppliers and contractors. Where works are being undertaken by third parties for later adoption by WPD under the Ofgem Competition in Connections regime, we have sought through Ofgem that appropriate requirements are in place.
- Pursues waste minimisation, and recycling. WPD recycle office materials like glass, paper, card and toners, as well as metal materials, oils, wood and electrical equipment. Where possible we donate computers, office furniture and telephones that are no longer required by WPD to charitable organisations.
- Undertakes research, invests in and reviews new technology relevant to the business and takes into consideration its impact on the environment. Seeks to use technology to reduce the amount and size of equipment needed on site
- Take special care and appropriate safety measures in the handling and disposal of potentially hazardous materials
- Use external consultants where “in-house” expertise is not available